7 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

25X1A

I discussed this with Mr. Briggs before 1 April, explaining
that we had not been able to identify any category A priorities gener-
ated by the Support Offices. When this type of priority is assigned
to Support applications, it is assigned either by MSD/OCS or in the
Production Division by [   ] Usually it is caused by some occur-
rence which prevents the job from being run during the night with the
result that it must be carried over to the next day.

Briggs agreed that we sould not follow the procedure prescribed
in his memorandum but he would review category A requirements and call
me on any that he considered questionable.

[   ]   25X1A

Chief, Support Services Staff

Category A Priority Assignments

I leafed through the January Category A & B Log
maintained by the Production Control Branch/OCS. Every
DDS office except OTR had at least one Category A run
during the month. The reason for a job being assigned
Category A is not given in the Log nor is there any other
documentation that tells you why the assignment was made.
I've talked to several MSD people and it appears that
customer requests for a fast turnaround, are at a mimimum -
at least for DDS customers. Occasionally, a special request
will take longer than anticipated and end up in a series
of Category A runs to meet the dead line. PERCON is a
recent example, also special requests written in 501 code
use Category A to get debug time on the Spectra 70.
I understand that this is the simplest way to break into
the Spectra operating system to get a debug shot.

Nobody says so but I gather that significant part of
the Category A problem is inside the Production Division.
Hardware, software and I suppose, operator problems create
back logs and some of this backlog, originally Category B,C,
D or E becomes Category A. SANCA is apparently a recurring
example of this kind of problem. SANCA is a Category B job -
with an over night update (this is not the SANCA query system).

CONFIDENTIAL

If the update doesn't go for one reason or another it becomes a Category A the next day.

No one has any advice on how Office or Division Chiefs or even, for that matter Directorate IPC's can solve this problem. The need for Category A time is dectected in OCS. / This instruction from Briggs will mean that the need will have to be surfaced at the Office or Division in the Directorate, talked about and so forth, and signed. Since several Category A's might crop up at the same time the request will have to go to the Directorate because Office or Division Chiefs won't be aware of compet*ING* requests. Unless the Directorate has established a fairly rigid priority system there will be some difficulty in deciding how to order the competitive Category A's. In the mean time customer deadlines have come and gone.

The more likely prospect is that Category B (a request for "Block time") will become the critical category. Category B will become a problem,*Like Category A* and Category C will crop up as critical.

In the end we will do away with the whole category business and have jousting tournaments for machine time (not dissimilar to the way 501 time was allocated).

It's easy to sit on the outside and criticize and second guess this problem.

One solution seems to be to dedicate the hardware, software and operators to classes fo customer; Scientific;

CONFIDENTIAL

Intelligence Production, Support, etc. I'm not sure that
this isn't the only solution *to the problem.*

25X1A

25X1A
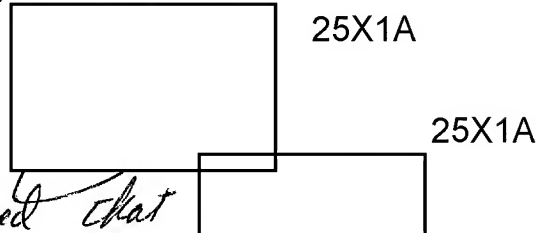
After writing this I learned that
Category
assigns ~~Priority~~ A time on his own priority arrangement.
This removes the problem from the people who could do
most to solve it.